

a computational node controlling actuation of the motor driving the wheels of the trolley; and

a communication interface providing input/output communication with other intelligent modules.

24. (Once Amended) An input device for use in an assist system, comprising:

a handle for gripping; and

at least one proportional control;

wherein the input device is in communication with a multi-function hub, wherein the proportional control when pressed provides a proportional output signal to the multi-function hub, and wherein the multi-function hub passes the output signal to the assist system.

Remarks

Claims 1-4 and 6-29 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 24 have been amended. In the Office Action mailed December 26, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,386,513 B1 ("Kazerooni") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,590,046 ("Anderson"). The Examiner additionally rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazerooni in view of U.S. Pat. No. 3,451,507 ("Santos"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims for the following reasons.